

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00731 171458Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9163

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 731

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AGS, OGEN

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SUMMER INTERNS

REF: STATE 019568

1. THE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REFTEL IS NOT A REFLECTION OF LACK OF INTEREST IN THE INTERN PROGRAM. RATHER IT IS A MEASURE OF OUR REAL NEED FOR THE KIND OF HELP THAT INTERNS COULD PROVIDE THUS FREEING NEED FOR THE KIND OF HELP THAT INTERNS COULD PROVIDE THUS FREEING SOME TIME FOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT. AT LEAST ONE INTERN NOT ONLY HIGHLY DESIREABLE BUT VIRTUAL NECESSITY. PRESENT POL/EONON OFFICER NOW WEARING USIS, ECON/COMM, SELF-HELP OFFICER, AND MANY OTHER HATS, AND WITH ARRIVAL OF PAO STILL EVIDENTLY SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY, INTRN COULD GREATLY ASSIST IN ALLEVIATING BACKLOG-NON-URGENT BUT VALUABLE PROJECTS, AND SERVE AS ASSISTANT TOEMBOFFIN ALL THREE MAJOR FIELDS OF RESPONSIBILITY, THUS OBTAINING WIDER EXPERIENCE THAN AVAILABLE MOST POSTS.

2. SPECIFIC PROJECT FOR WHICH CONTRACT WOULD BE DRAWN HOWEVER WOULD BE SELF-HELP PROJECTS, WHICH CURRENTLY CONSTITUTES AN AREA WHERE POST FEELS GREATEST NEED FOR MOR SYSTEMATIC APPROACH. FOR EXAMPLE, NEARLY ALL FY 1977 APPROVALS AND FY 1978 APPLICATIONS ARE FOR MOTOR PUMPS AND ARE IN SOME CASES UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WITHOUT ACTUAL VISITS, WHICH POST PERSONNEL DO NOT HAVE TIME TO DO INTERN COULD CONDUCT STUDY QUITE SIMILAR TO STUDY CONDUCTED BY SELF-HELP OFFICER DAKAR WHEREBY APPROVED PROJECTS (AND PROPOSED PROJECTS IN SAME REGIONS) COULD BE VISITED TO DETERMINE WHETHER PRESENT PROJECTS WERE EXISITNG SUCCESSFUL OR COMPLETED, AND DEGREE OF NEED FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS. TRAVEL COULD BE ARRNGED ON SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS

COINCIDENT WITH NECESSARY EMBASSY, AID AND PC TRAVEL, OR BY BUSH TAXI WITH NEGLIGIBLE COSTS. INTERN WOULD BE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE REPORT ON SURVEY, COVERING 20 TO 30 PROJECTS, WITH APPROPRIATE RECOMMENATIONS. A GRADUATE STUDENT IN ANY OF SEVERAL DISCIPLINES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE - E.G. ECONOMICS, AGRICULTURE, SOCIAL SCIENCES.

3. ADDITIONALLY, WE COULD USE BUSINES ADMINISTRATION STUDENT TO SET UP PROCEDURE AND WRITE POLICY GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONSFOR NEW

JOINT ADMIN OPERATION. THIS WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DESIGN PROCEDURES AND TEST THEM IN AN ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS THIS.

4. WE CAN GUARANTEE GOOD HOUSING, RECREATIONAL FACILTIES, EXCELLENT CLIMATE EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONALSANDSTORM, AND MILES OF UNCLUTTERED WHITE SANDY BEACHES. INTERNS MUST HAVE THREE/THREE FRENCH. A KNOWLEDGE OF ARABIC AND SOME PREVIOUS EXPOSURE TO ISLAMIC CULTURE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. WE TRUST THAT OUR SUBMISSION IS NOT TOO LATE TO PERMIT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION THIS SUMMER.

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